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eldon hazlet

STATE PARK

THE PARK

Opened to the public in 1970, the 3,000-acre park on the west side of Carlyle in Clinton County was named Eldon Hazlet State Park to honor the memory of the President of the Kaskaskia Valley Association. This group was primarily responsible for promoting the Carlyle Reservoir, the largest man-made lake in Illinois, as well as Lake Shelbyville and other improvements on the Kaskaskia River.

HISTORY

Eldon Hazlet, a Carlyle attorney, and the Kaskaskia Valley Association worked many years for a comprehensive plan for development of the Kaskaskia River Basin for flood control, navigation, fish and wildlife conservation, water supply and recreation.

The project was authorized by Congress on July 3, 1958, and construction began late that year. A total of 62,400 acres of land was purchased or easements acquired.

The Carlyle Dam and Reservoir is on the Kaskaskia River near Carlyle, about 107 river miles above the mouth of the river in Fayette, Bond, Marion and Clinton counties. Prior to the reservoir construction, there were many major alterations. Relocation of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad was completed in the fall of 1965 at the cost of over 7 million dollars. Economically, it was found more feasible to construct a new elevated roadbed adjacent to the existing one instead of routing the railroad around the reservoir.

Mineral rights for 69 oil wells were purchased and plugged to prevent possible pollution to the reservoir. Approximately 20 miles of existing county and township roads were altered to provide necessary access to project facilities. Affected power and telephone lines throughout the reservoir area were either relocated or removed as required.

Alterations to affected cemeteries in the area consisted of the relocation of 600 burials from 7 existing cemeteries to others outside the project limits and raising the positions of 3 cemeteries on the outer edge of the reservoir. Approximately 16,500 acres of land were cleared within the limits of the normal pool of the reservoir.

After completion of various alterations, the reservoir's major construction began with building of the earthfill dam, 67 feet above stream bed, 6,570 feet in length and with 4 control gates of 38x39 feet dimensions. The concrete, gate controlled spillway is 179 feet long. A conduit on the left side of the main dam has an inside diameter of 30 inches tapering to 24. The reservoir has a normal pool of 26,000 acres.

Completion of the Carlyle Dam and Reservoir Project was in June 1967 at a cost of approximately $41 million. Careful consideration was given to the preservation of the environment to enhance the natural beauty and to insure an abundant wildlife population.

The main channel of the river runs along the bluffs on the east side of the park, which is now inundated by the lake. In earlier years, tribes of Iroquois Indians lived along these bluffs. Southern Illinois University archaeologists have dug many relics and artifacts of the early Indian tribes from the bluff area.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: Almost 10 miles of roads wind through the park to the picnic areas and parking lots. Tables and picnic grills are furnished and there are 6 rustic shelters. Water fountains and toilet facilities are scattered throughout. There is no concession stand.

Trails: Three trails of about 1 mile each allow the visitor to explore the park from the nature observation point overlooking the lake, or inspect the very old headstones marking the graves of the early Irish settlers in the Burnside pre-Civil War cemetery.

Boating: Carlyle Lake, approximately 5 miles across and 18 miles long, is ideal for boating and sailing. There is a launching ramp for small boats, a 4-lane ramp and a 2-lane ramp. There is no horsepower limit on the lake. Boat rentals are not available. The Carlyle Sailing Association operates the sailboat concession and has a ramp for launching sailboats. For a fee, their electric hoist may be used for large sailboats.

Fishing: Largemouth bass, white bass, walleye, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, channel catfish, carp and suckers are available for the angler.

Camping: Illini Campground has places for 231 trailers, 227 with electrical outlets and a sanitary disposal station. There are 36 pads for

tent walk-in camping. The overflow campground is now used for group camping. Contact the park ranger for camping permits. All groups of over 25 persons need advance permission to enter the park.

Hunting: Controlled pheasant hunting on a put-and-take basis is permitted in season. Contact the park ranger for information concerning shooting time and opening dates.

Other: Additional facilities on the lake that are operated by the Department of Conservation are South Shore State Park, which has extensive camping, picnicking, boat launches and a large sailboat harbor, as well as concessionaire-operated Keyesport Access Area on the east side and Tamalco Access Area on the west side. Both have launching ramps, boat rentals, supplies, camping and fishing.

The following recreational areas are operated by the Corps of Engineers: Spillway, West, Boulder, Coles Creek and East Access Areas; Keyesport Access Area and Boat Dock. A variety of facilities are offered at each.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

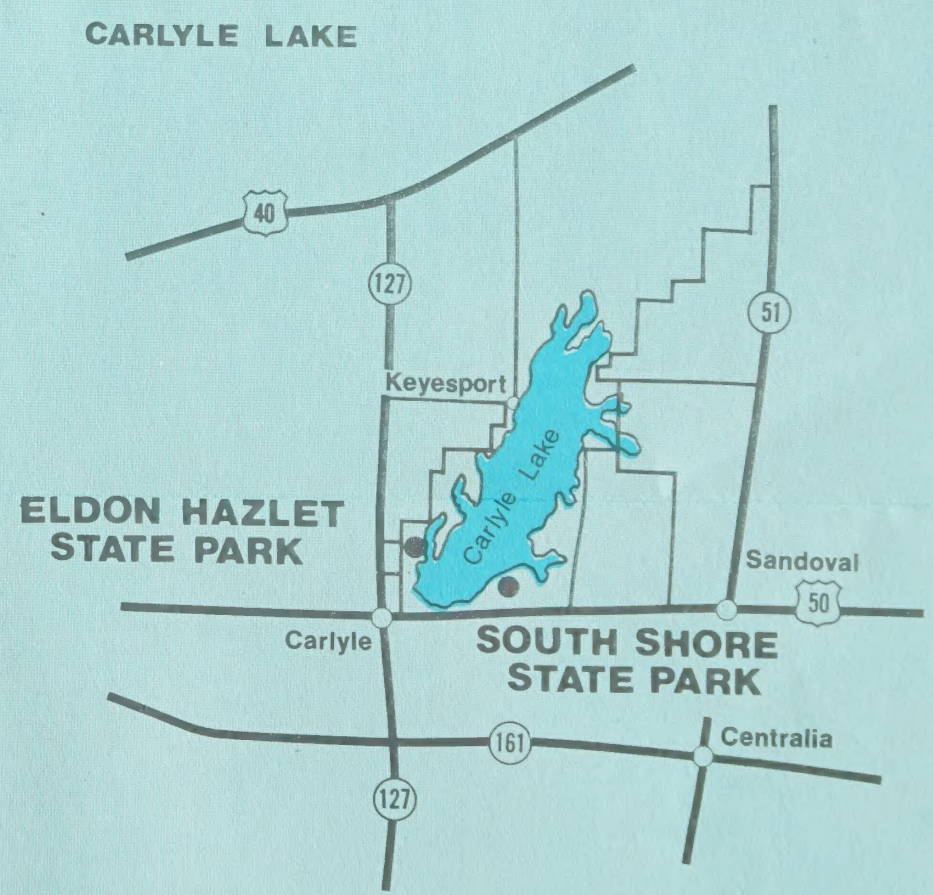
Numerous state parks and memorials are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state parks are open the year round. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Ranger, Eldon Hazlet State Park, Carlyle, Illinois 62231, phone 618/594-3015. For information on other Illinois sites, write the Department of Conservation, Information/Education Division, State Office Building, Springfield 62706.

Park Maps

Chippewa Picnic Area & Shelter
Boat Launch
Allen Branch
Allen Branch Picnic Area & Shelter
CARLYLE LAKE
Osage Youth Group Camping Area
Ottawa Picnic Area
Nature Trail (3 Miles)
Park Office
Trail Map
Ranger Road
Pre-Civil War Early Settlers Cemetery
Picnic Area & Shelter
Park Entrance
← To Rt. 1
Boat Launch
Pawnee Picnic Area & Shelter
Kickapoo Picnic Area & Shelter
Group Camping & Overflow
Camping Area
Illini Camping Area
Sanitary Dumping Station
Camping Area
Camping Area
Boat Launch
Camping Area
Camping Area
Shawnee Picnic Area
Chickasaw Picnic Area & Shelter
Concession
Sailboat Harbor



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